

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The invention provides a cDNA which encodes TIMM8b-related protein. It also provides for the use of the cDNA, fragments, complements, and variants thereof and of the encoded protein, portions thereof and antibodies thereto for diagnosis and treatment of cancer, particularly breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and kidney cancer; and neurodegenerative disorders, particularly Mohr-Tranebjaerg syndrome, epilepsy, spasticity, and dystonia. The invention additionally provides expression vectors and host cells for the production of the protein and a transgenic model system.